



Overview of International Provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Act

A newly reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act was adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by the U.S. President in January 2007. This Act contains a number of new provisions for both domestic and international fisheries stewardship that will significantly shape the focus of fisheries management in the coming years.

The Act pays an unprecedented level of attention to international fisheries. The overarching approach is a call for the United States to work multilaterally through various fora, such as Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), to address illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, and bycatch of protected living marine resources (LMRs).

The Act requires the United States to produce a biennial report that lists countries which the United States has identified as having vessels engaged in IUU fishing and/or bycatch of protected LMRs. The Act also requires the development of rulemaking to implement certification procedures and calls on the United States to work with listed nations to:

- * Take appropriate corrective action to address IUU fishing;
- * Adopt regulatory programs for protected LMRs that are comparable to U.S. programs, taking into account different conditions; and
- * Establish management plans for protected LMRs.

The absence of steps to address problems of IUU fishing and bycatch of protected LMRs may lead to prohibitions on the importation of certain fisheries products into the United States and other measures.

The Act calls on the United States to promote improved monitoring, control, and surveillance for high seas and RFMO fisheries; improve the effectiveness of RFMOs through adoption of IUU vessel lists, stronger port state controls, and market-related measures; and build capacity in other countries to ensure sustainable fisheries and regulatory enforcement. In addition to these provisions, the Act contains implementing language for several international agreements and conventions, including the new Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) and the US-Canada agreement on Pacific Hake.

The United States looks forward to actively working with other nations to achieve the goals of reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act in a cooperative and transparent manner.

Additional information and updates may be found at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/>

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